

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing replaces all prior listings in this case.

Listing of Claims:

1.-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously presented) An apparatus comprising a plurality of data storage devices and redundant storage controllers within a common enclosure, the storage controllers each selectively connectable to each of the plurality of data storage devices via a switchable fabric for controlling data transfer operations in relation to each of the data storage devices.

31. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30 comprising an interface controller within the enclosure configured for interfacing with an external device.

32. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 31 comprising redundant interface controllers configured for interfacing with the external device.

33. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the switchable fabric is configured for switching by the storage controllers.

34. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the switchable fabric is configured for switching by the interface controllers.

35. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the switchable fabric is configured for switching by the external device.

36. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the storage controllers are each connectable to each of the plurality of data storage devices via redundant switchable fabrics for controlling data transfer operations in relation to each of the data storage devices.

37. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein each of the data storage devices is dual ported, with a port of each data storage device connected to each of the switchable fabrics.

38. (Previously presented) A multiple disc assembly comprising a plurality of data storage devices and a storage controller that is selectively connectable to each of the plurality of data storage devices via a switchable fabric defining at least two independent signal paths between the storage controller and each data storage device for controlling data transfers in relation to each of the data storage devices.

39. (Previously presented) The multiple disc assembly of claim 38 comprising an interface controller configured for interfacing with an external device.

40. (Previously presented) The multiple disc assembly of claim 39 comprising redundant interface controllers configured for interfacing with the external device.

41. (Previously presented) The multiple disc assembly of claim 38 wherein the switchable fabric is configured for switching by the storage controller.

42. (Previously presented) The multiple disc assembly of claim 40 wherein the switchable fabric is configured for switching by the interface controllers.

43. (Previously presented) The multiple disc assembly of claim 39 wherein the switchable fabric is configured for switching by the external device.

44. (Previously presented) The multiple disc assembly of claim 38 comprising redundant storage controllers, each selectively connectable to each of the plurality of data storage devices via at least two independent signal paths defined by the switchable fabric.

45. (Previously presented) The multiple disc assembly of claim 44 comprising redundant switchable fabrics connected to the redundant controllers for communicating data transfer information in relation to each of the data storage devices.

46. (Previously presented) The multiple disc assembly of claim 45 wherein each of the data storage devices is dual ported, with a port of each data storage device connected to each of the switchable fabrics.

47. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

forming a multiple disc assembly by connecting each of a plurality of data storage devices to a switchable fabric;

determining whether all the data storage devices are accessible via the fabric; and
configuring the fabric to isolate any inaccessible data storage devices.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the forming step comprises connecting each of the plurality of data storage devices to each of redundant switchable fabrics.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48 wherein the determining step comprises determining whether all the data storage devices are accessible via a first of the fabrics, and determining whether all the data storage devices are accessible via a second of the fabrics.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49 wherein the forming step comprises connecting redundant storage controllers to the first and second fabrics via first and second fabric busses, respectively, determining whether the first fabric is accessible via each of the first and second fabric busses, and determining whether the second fabric is accessible via each of the first and second fabric busses.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the forming step comprises connecting redundant interface controllers to the storage controllers via first and

second interface busses, respectively, determining whether a first of the storage controllers is accessible via each of the first and second interface busses, and determining whether a second of the storage controllers is accessible via each of the first and second interface busses.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the forming step comprises connecting a common system interface to the interface controllers via first and second system busses, respectively, determining whether a first of the interface controllers is accessible via each of the first and second system busses, and determining whether a second of the interface controllers is accessible via each of the first and second system busses.

53. (Canceled)

54. (Previously presented) A multiple disc assembly comprising a plurality of data storage locations that are accessible to each of a plurality of controllers via circuitry that defines at least two independent signal paths between each location and each controller.

55. (Previously presented) A multiple disc assembly comprising a plurality of data storage locations that are accessible to an external device through a common connector via circuitry that comprises a switchable fabric.

56. (Previously presented) A multiple disc assembly comprising a plurality of dual ported data storage devices with a first port connected to a first switchable fabric and a second port connected to a second switchable fabric.

57. (Previously presented) A multiple disc assembly comprising a plurality of dual ported storage controllers with a first port connected to a first switchable fabric and a second port connected to a second switchable fabric, the fabrics, in turn, connected to a plurality of data storage devices.

58. (Previously presented) A bulk storage apparatus comprising:
a storage controller selectively connectable to each of a plurality of self-contained data storage devices via a switchable fabric; and
instructions stored in memory and executable by the storage controller for switching the fabric.

59. (Previously presented) A multiple disc array comprising:
a storage controller in a data transfer relationship with each of a plurality of data storage devices via a switchable fabric; and
an isolation routine carrying out steps for determining an inaccessibility of a data storage device in the plurality.